

Abraham Knabb House (Now Ha'Penny Farm)  
1 mile southeast of Limekiln, east of Oley Line Road,  
Oley Township  
Limekiln Vicinity  
Berks County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1045

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS NO. PA-1045

ABRAHAM KNABB HOUSE (NOW HA'PENNY FARM)

Location: Pennsylvania, Berks County, Limekiln Vicinity,  
Oley Township, E. of Oley Line Road, 1 mi. S. E.  
of Limekiln.

Present Owner: W. J. Rohn, Oley, Pa.

Present Occupant: Owner

Present Use: Residence

Brief Statement of Significance: Built in 1817, this is an example of the typical conservative style of early nineteenth century building in rural eastern Pennsylvania.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Knabb house was built for Abraham and Elizabet Knabb in 1817, according to the date plaque on the facade and information from the present owner.

References: Montgomery, R. S., Houses of Oley Valley, The Dutchman, Vol. VI, No. 3 (Winter - 1954, 1955), pp. 16-26.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The Knabb house is a typical two-story, five-bay, stone house of Georgian style having a gable roof with end chimneys. The house has been remodelled on the interior with some partitions changed and modern conveniences introduced. The living room, which occupies the entire west side of the first floor, probably has been made larger by the removal of an interior wall which originally would have divided that side of the house into two rooms. The fireplace in the living room appears to be earlier than 1817, as it has a very large open hearth with oven such as were common to the seventeenth and early eighteenth century kitchens. The living room ceiling beams which run perpendicular to each other in a regular pattern of squares would not seem to be original.

The house is in excellent condition and is well-maintained by the present owners as their home.

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The most interesting feature of the house is the elaborately decorated main doorway, which is typical of those found in rural eastern Pennsylvania. The frontispiece is framed by pilasters and has a semi-circular arch over the door which penetrates the deep entablature.

The house is surrounded by modern landscaping, an asphalt drive, and to the rear, a swimming pool. There are two interesting smaller buildings, a smoke house and spring house which are older than the house, and a very handsome stone barn which is probably nineteenth century.

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